United Nations A/70/814

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 April 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 72
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the attention given in Uzbekistan to the development of young people, who are a decisive force of our today and tomorrow (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72.

(*Signed*) Ildar **Shigabutdinov**
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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Efforts in Uzbekistan to promote the development of young people — a decisive force for our today and our tomorrow

Ever since Uzbekistan became independent, the policy of radical reforms pursued under the leadership of our Head of State with the aim of building a prosperous democratic State and society has had a clear social orientation.

Today, young people account for more than 60 per cent of the population of Uzbekistan. Therefore, a key priority of all the positive reforms in the country is to raise a harmoniously developed generation of young people who are physically healthy, spiritually mature and intellectually rich, and who possess not only wide-ranging knowledge and the skills that are in demand in the modern world, but also the ability to think independently and creatively.

The country's Constitution provides a firm legal foundation in this regard. An important step in this connection was the adoption on 20 November 1991 of the Act on the Foundations of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan, which raised the issue of the younger generation to the national policy level.

Mention should also be made of the national professional training programme, which, according to international experts, has no precedent of such significance and scale anywhere in the world.

The Presidential Decision of 6 February 2014 on additional measures to implement the State youth policy in Uzbekistan was the logical continuation of the gradual reforms implemented since independence and marked the beginning of a new stage of activity.

In addition, a special State programme is developed in Uzbekistan every year, setting out the social direction for that year. For example, 2008 was proclaimed the Year of Youth, 2010 was proclaimed the Year of the Harmoniously Developed Generation, 2014 was the Year of the Healthy Child and 2016 is the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child. This demonstrates the huge efforts being made to create a bright future for the younger generation. The fact that a total of 7,483.3 billion sum and 194.4 million dollars has been allocated for the implementation of the State programme known as the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child is indicative of the scale and depth of the work being done in Uzbekistan.

The national models created in our country for continuing education and for the raising of a harmoniously developed younger generation have also been widely recognized throughout the world. For all stages of education, State educational standards, academic curricula and textbooks that are appropriate to current demands have been developed and put into use, drawing on experience from around the world. Advanced teaching technologies and interactive methods of education are widely used.

Since independence, new types of education institutions have been established that are without precedent in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent

States: vocational colleges and academic high schools. As a result, a unique holistic system of continuous learning and academic and industrial education has been established with the aim of producing highly qualified and competitive professionals for all sectors of the economy and society and ensuring the spiritual and moral education and all-round creative development of young people.

Thousands of new jobs are created in the country every year, some of them through the development of the small business and private enterprise sector, which is attracting increasing numbers of young people. Over the past year, 990,400 jobs have been created in Uzbekistan — more than the 987,500 forecast — and over 90 per cent of young experts have found employment. Steps have been taken to provide jobs for more than 230,000 young women who graduated from vocational colleges in 2015; loans amounting to more than 51 billion sum have been allocated to over 6,000 of them who want to start their own business. All of this helps to address the issue of employment for young people and for the population as a whole, which is very important to us.

The expanding social partnership between the State authorities and civil society, including the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Kamolot youth movement, the Makhalla and Soglom Avlod Uchun non-governmental charitable foundations and the Istedod Presidential Foundation, is also contributing to the positive impact of work in this area.

A large-scale effort to develop children's sport is helping to raise a younger generation that is physically healthy and spiritually mature. In 2005, 30 per cent of children and adolescents aged 6 to 15 in Uzbekistan took part in sport (the figure for rural areas was 29 per cent), whereas in 2015 the figures stood at 57.2 per cent and 56 per cent respectively.

Practical efforts to attract girls to popular sports have achieved impressive results. In 2005, 24 per cent of them took part in such sports, while in rural areas the figure was 22 per cent. It is gratifying that today 47 per cent of girls regularly take part in sport; in rural areas the figure is 44.7 per cent.

As a result of developments in this area and the promotion of a healthy way of life, Uzbek athletes are achieving great success in the international arena. In the 2015 sports season, our compatriots won 311 gold, 274 silver and 276 bronze medals at Olympic and national sports competitions. This is another practical confirmation of the effectiveness of the State's carefully considered youth policy and of the fact that the talent and expertise of our young men and women are second to none.

The country's leadership is also paying great attention to supporting young families. In accordance with the Presidential Decree of 18 May 2007 on additional measures for the material and moral support of young families, such families are provided with long-term mortgage loans at preferential rates.

As part of efforts to improve their housing and living conditions, a Cabinet of Ministers decision was also adopted on 8 September 2014 on measures for further support in the provision of housing for young families who are actively contributing to society. The decision provides for the construction of apartment blocks and the conversion of existing unused and unfinished buildings throughout the country into Kamolot apartment blocks for young families.

Over the past two years, 57 Kamolot multistorey blocks housing 2,080 apartments have been built and allocated to young families, and thousands of young men and women have been provided with mortgage loans and consumer credit at preferential rates. Such practices are becoming more widespread.

In general, this kind of comprehensive and multidimensional support is provided to all young people in Uzbekistan. As President Islam Karimov has repeatedly stated, "Young people are not only our hope and our future; young people are a decisive force for our today and our tomorrow."